

Appl. No. 10/614,307
Amdt. Dated June 1, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 20, 2006

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-30 remain in this application. Claims 1-15 and 28-30 have been withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 16-27 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The examiner has rejected claims 16-27 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Burghartz, et al.* (5,793,272).

In view of these remarks, reconsideration of the above noted rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph:

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendment to **claim 16** cures the grounds for the rejection of **claims 16-27** under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In particular, the antecedent basis for the "first and second opposite ends" has been clarified by the above amendments.

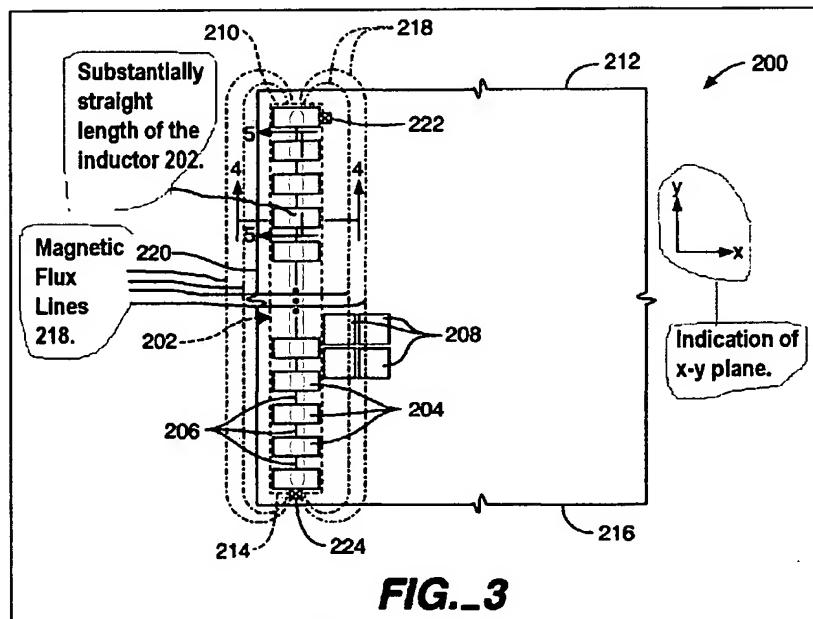
Rejections under 35 USC 102(b):

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of **claims 16-27** under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Burghartz, et al.* The independent claim under this rejection is **claim 16**. Independent **claim 16** has been amended above. Amended independent **claim 16** calls for:

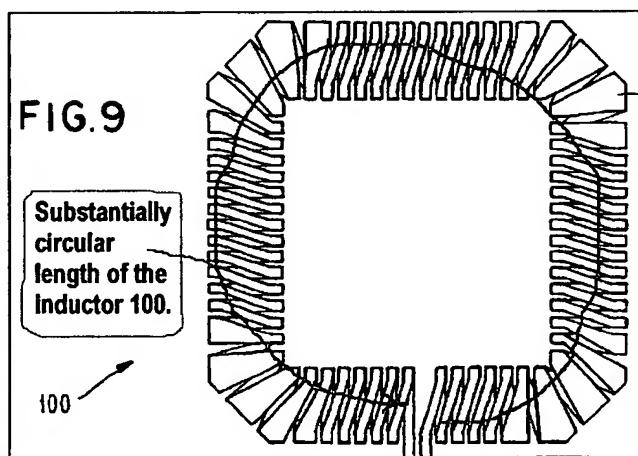
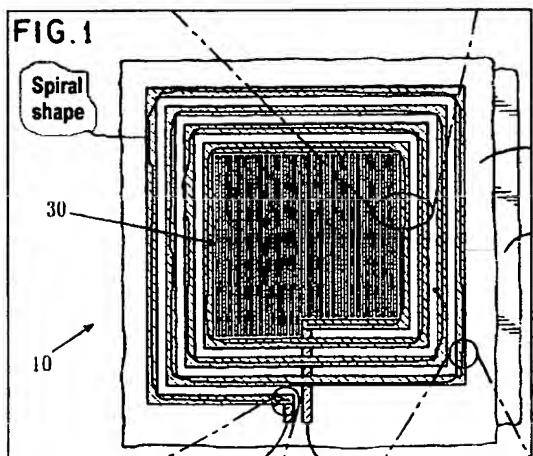
... an **x-y plane** of the integrated circuit;
...; and

an inductor ... having magnetic flux lines substantially parallel to the **x-y plane** of the integrated circuit upon operation of the integrated circuit, having first and second opposite ends, and having a substantially **straight length** between the first and second opposite ends.

These limitations, including the limitations in bold font and the added limitations, are supported in Fig. 3, which is reproduced here with annotations:



Applicant respectfully submits that *Burghartz, et al.* does not teach or suggest these limitations. Instead, *Burghartz, et al.* discloses a spiral inductor 10 and a toroidal inductor 100, as shown in Figs. 1 and 9, respectively, relevant portions of which are reproduced here:



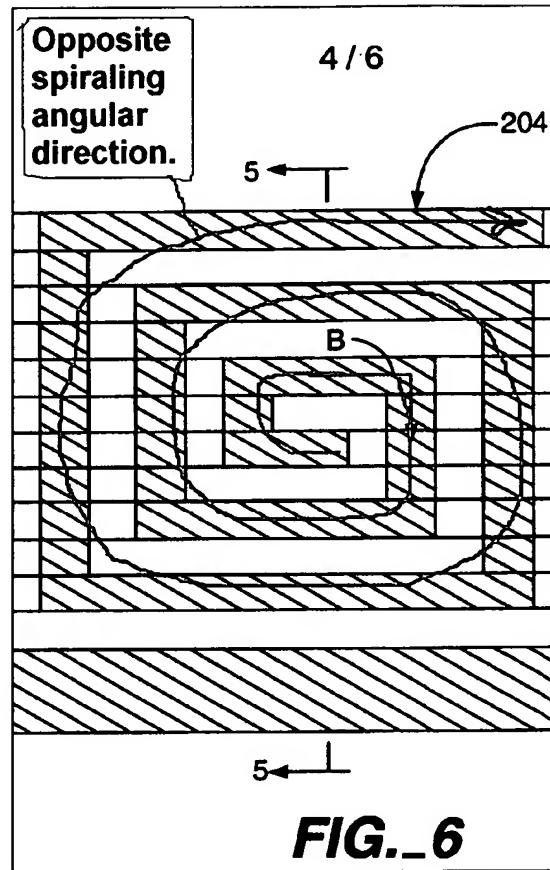
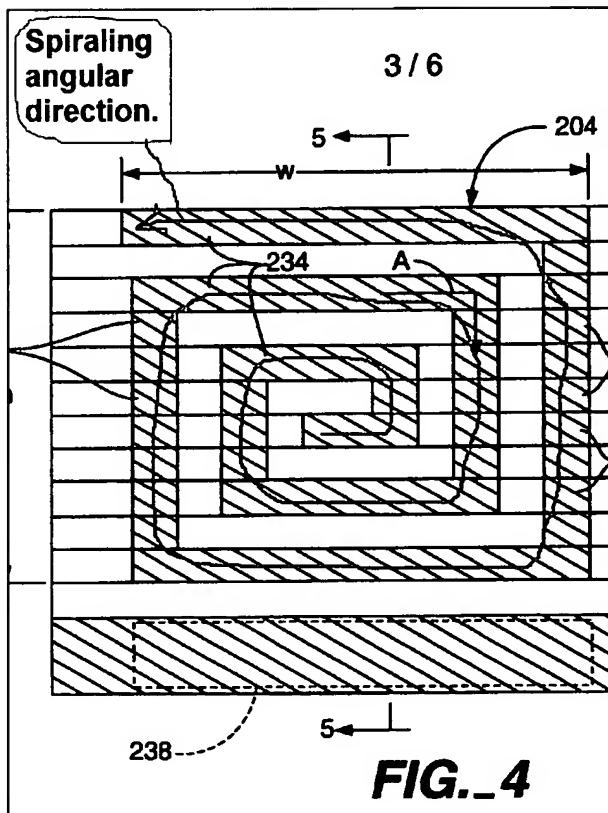
The spiral inductor 10 is similar to the prior art described with reference to Figs 1 and 2 of the present application, which means that the magnetic flux lines of the spiral inductor 10 are **perpendicular**, rather than **parallel** (as called for in **claim 16**), to what would be the equivalent of the **x-y plane** of the IC. (See Fig. 1 and also Specification page 2, lines 6-14.) Additionally, the spiral inductor 10 has a **spiral shape**, and the toroidal inductor 100 has a **circular shape**. **Claim 16**, on the other hand, calls for “a substantially **straight length** between the first and second opposite ends” of the inductor and has been amended, as explained above, to cure the antecedent basis issue mentioned at the end of page 4 of the office action. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that independent **claim 16** as amended is not anticipated by, is not obvious in view of, and is patentable over *Burghartz, et al.* at least because the reference does not teach or fairly suggest an inductor having a substantially **straight length** between first and second opposite ends and that has magnetic flux lines substantially **parallel** to the **x-y plane** of the integrated circuit.

Likewise, since **claims 17-27** depend directly or indirectly from independent **claim 16**, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also not anticipated by, are not obvious in view of, and are patentable over *Burghartz, et al.* at least for the same reasons.

In addition to the above, dependent **claim 19** recites:

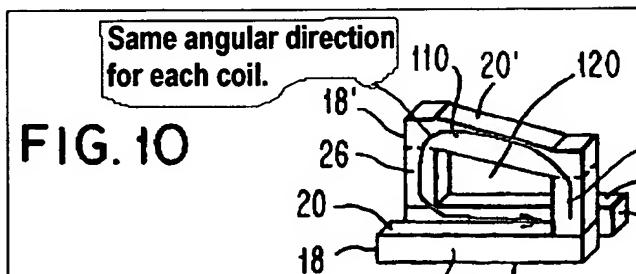
the **first segment** of the inductor has a coil-shape in a **first spiraling angular direction**; and
the **second segment** of the inductor has a coil-shape in a **second spiraling angular direction**.

These limitations are supported in Figs. 4 and 6, relevant portions of which are reproduced here:



Applicant respectfully submits that *Burghartz, et al.* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Instead, the spiral inductor 10 of *Burghartz, et al.* does not have first and second segments, but has only **one segment**, as shown in Fig. 1 (reproduced above). Additionally, the spiral inductor 10 has only a **single spiraling angular direction**. Furthermore, although the toroidal inductor 100 of *Burghartz, et al.* has separate segments (i.e. the loops 102), as shown in Fig. 9 (reproduced above), each

loop 102 has the **same** angular direction, which does **not spiral**, as shown in Fig. 10, relevant portions of which are reproduced here:

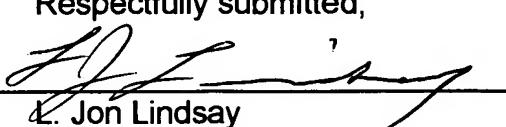


Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that dependent **claim 19** is not anticipated by, is not obvious in view of, and is patentable over *Burghartz, et al.* at least because the reference does not teach or fairly suggest an inductor having first and second segments with first and second spiraling angular directions.

For the reasons specifically discussed above, and others, it is believed that **claims 16-27** define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the previous rejections as they might apply to these claims is therefore respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

June 1, 2006
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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